

The election here yesterday proceeded very quietly. There can hardly be said to have been a contest for Governor at the point at least.

There are three candidates for Sheriff of New Hanover county, which used to be the best office in the State. For the Senate ELI W. HALL, Esq., has no opposition. The county elects two Commoners. There are three candidates running—Hon. S. J. FRANKSON and Captain HAWES, the old members, and Lieutenant J. L. WRIGHT. Col. BARRY was brought out some weeks ago by several of his friends, but declined in a letter published some time since in the Journal.

We give such details as have come to hand.

NEW HANOVER COUNTY.

Wilmington—Governor—Vance 548; Holden 12. Senate—Eli W. Hall 26. Commoners—Person 207; Hawes 216; Wright 160; Barry 45. Sheriff—McClain 203; Hall 216; Bunting 102.

Greensboro—Governor—Vance 49; Holden 3. Senate—Eli W. Hall 18. Commoners—Person 18; Hawes 18. Sheriff—McClain 20; Hall 24; Bunting 24.

By Telegraph. RALPH, Aug. 4. Greensboro—Vance 34; Holden 21. Fayetteville—Vance 45; Holden 27. Salisbury—Vance 40; Holden 10.

Newton—Vance 201; Holden none. Brownsboro—Vance 35; Holden none. Lenoir—Vance 48; Holden 43. Hickory Station—Vance 75; Holden 5. Statesville—Vance 53; Holden 26. Mount Ulla—Vance 32; Holden 15. Charlotte—Vance 700; Holden 1. Kinston—Vance 175; Holden 1. Weldon—Vance 121; Holden 1. Elizabeth—Vance 116; Holden 0. Warsaw—Vance 85; Holden 0. Raleigh—Vance 245; Holden 207. E. H. Hall—Vance 17; Holden 0. Rocky Mount—Vance 17; Holden 1. Tarboro—Vance 107; Holden 0. Wayne county—Vance 637; Holden 78—one precinct to hear from. Wilson county—As far as heard from, Vance 161; Holden 10.

Presville—Vance 63; Holden 3. Henderson—Vance 150; Holden none. High Point—Vance 69; Holden 45. Warrenton—Vance 100; Holden none. Franklinton—Vance 81; Holden none. Lenoir—Vance 107; Holden none. Hillsboro—Vance 17; Holden 5.

The vote at this precinct is as follows: Governor—Vance 163; Holden none. Senate—Eli W. Hall 67; Pritchett 23. Commoners—Person 35; Hawes 39; Sheriff—Galloway 79; Allen 30.

THE RETURNS. We have few returns to-day in addition to those given yesterday. It will be seen that two precincts in New Hanover county are yet to be heard from. We give below such returns from other counties as have reached us. The aggregate received so far gives 7,065 for VANCE, and 797 for HOLDEN, being within a fraction of nine for the former to one for the latter.

Richmond County—Governor—Vance 37; Holden 53. Senate—Eli W. Hall 163; Pritchett 23. Commoners—Person 103; Hawes 103. Sheriff—Galloway 79; Allen 30. Bladen County—Five precincts vote as follows: Governor—Vance 218; Holden 107. Senate—Eli W. Hall 103; Pritchett 23. Commoners—Person 103; Hawes 103. Sheriff—Galloway 79; Allen 30.

Northwest—Governor—Vance 63; Holden 41. Senate—Eli W. Hall 67; Pritchett 23. Commoners—Person 35; Hawes 39. Sheriff—Galloway 79; Allen 30.

CAMP FOR THE N. C. T. The vote of the N. C. T. is as follows: Governor—Vance 103; Holden 107. Senate—Eli W. Hall 103; Pritchett 23. Commoners—Person 103; Hawes 103. Sheriff—Galloway 79; Allen 30.

THE ELECTION. So far as returns have been received, and they have been received from portions of the State wide apart, there can be no doubt about the fact that the people at home have ratified and more than ratified the action of the soldiers in camp, and that Mr. HOLDEN has received a vote which is a vote only in name. It can hardly be regarded as a fact—it really looks as though he had not been running at all. The thing is so wholly one-sided that it has already ceased to possess any interest at all. There is not sufficient contest to make it interesting.

It is hardly worth while to speculate upon the causes which produced this result. They are too plain—they lie too near the surface to render any explanation necessary. But to one thing we may allude, and that is the fact that many men who in everything had gone with Mr. HOLDEN, and if they had wished to vote as to carry out the policy they themselves had advocated, would have voted and ought to have voted for Mr. HOLDEN, public men who had out-Holdened HOLDEN himself—who had sanctioned all the utterances of the so-called "peace meetings"—who had favored the calling of a State Convention for the same purposes that Mr. HOLDEN had favored it, suddenly find themselves strong VANCE men when they see that Mr. HOLDEN has no force of choice. Like rats they desert a sinking ship, but whether they stick by the foundering craft or not, they are none the less rats, and the people will remember them. They feared to go down with the piratical craft, and so scuttled off from it. Some of them might as well have hung together, for, politically speaking, they will have to hang separately.

We had Thursday the pleasure of seeing in our office Major W. F. KENNETT, of the 31st Regiment, N. C. T., one of the officers sent on by the Yankees to be placed under the fire of our forts in Charleston, in retaliation for our having quartered a certain number of their officers in the city. Our officers and the Yankee officers were exchanging for each other. Among our exchanged officers are five Generals. Col. BARBER, Lieutenant Colonel HARRIS, and Major KENNETT were the North Carolina officers selected to be exchanged. They were sent from Fort Delaware to Hilton Head, and were kept there on board the prison ship Dagon, and badly treated. They were over-crowded, kept between decks, without proper ventilation, and in one end of the long room formed by the between decks of the prison ship was a stove kept constantly heated, cooking for the prisoners, their guards, and others. The exchange took place on Wednesday, off Charleston, and then, for the first time, our officers had a chance of seeing, on Morris Island, the hus which the hospitable Yankees were getting ready for their accommodation on the open beach, and in the direct line of our fire.

The Charleston Courier regrets to learn from a private letter received in that city, that Mr. G. F. MARCHANT died in Nassau of Yellow Fever on the 19th July, and that there were several cases of sickness among the Southerners there. Mr. MARCHANT was well-known here and in Charleston as a theatrical manager.

THURSDAY, the 4th inst., was a day of humiliation and prayer in the dominions and among the armies of the North. As this day was set apart by order of ABRAHAM LINCOLN, and not by command of God, it is probable that the Yankees paid some respect to it, so far as a cessation of business is concerned; and, strangely enough did not even throw any shells into the cities of Petersburg or Atlanta. They seemed to recognize the fact that God could not smile upon the war they were waging upon women and children and old men, yet such is their every day occupation, and their avoidance of it on one day is but a mockery and a deception, which they practice upon themselves, but cannot practice upon God.

How these men, with hands red with slaughter, and hearts black with hatred and crime, can dare approach their maker with prayers which can only be regarded as blasphemous, or hope for forgiveness whilst abounding in arrogance and presumption, is a thing which we are unable to understand.

There may be some good and pious men in the Yankee ranks, but there are but three men here are declining. They are to be pitied. But men like LINCOLN and Seward are not devout, and are not good and pious men. Their whining over humiliation and prayer to Almighty God is neither more nor less than hypocrisy of the "most straitest sect."

And yet it may be that these men have some idea of deprecating the divine wrath which they have justly incurred. The devils themselves believe and tremble, and so may the earthly fiends. But they should bring forth fruits meet for repentance, showing themselves sorry for the evil they have done, ceasing long to work iniquity, and making restitution to the utmost of their power. Then indeed would LINCOLN and Seward might not despair of mercy, wicked as they are, nor do we pretend to say that BUTLER himself has sinned beyond redemption.

But none of these things will they do. They will not cease from shedding innocent blood, nor will they try to repair the evil they have done. On the contrary they have made a sham of humiliation and prayer, and though they could strike high heaven to smile upon their army, and favor their nefarious schemes; and they will go on as they have done, with hate still more envenomed, and consciences still more seared. Surely for these things there must come a reckoning.

Col. Dawson's Lecture. Although exceedingly unwell, we attended Colonel Dawson's lecture at the Theatre on Wednesday night. The Colonel was introduced by Hon. S. J. FRANKSON, who alluded in a few laudatory remarks to the objects for which the Colonel was laboring, and paid a deserved tribute to the gallantry and sufferings of the Kentucky soldiers in the Confederate army, and to the patriotism and disinterested efforts of their distinguished advocate.

The Colonel's lecture proper, was, we suppose, ornate and scholarly, but, being in the nature of abstract generalization, rather didactic than oratorical, more like reading out of a book than talking as man to man, gave less scope to the Colonel's peculiar powers, and, we think, excited less interest in his audience than did the larger and more characteristic portion devoted to the special objects of his mission—a vindication of Kentucky and an appeal on behalf of her suffering soldiers. His reference to President DAVIS, to STONEMAN, JACKSON and to General Lee, was eloquent and impressive. But it was "with his foot upon his native heath" when he spoke of his native State with the feeling of a long absent but still devoted son, that the speaker gave the fullest scope to his powers as an impassioned orator, and if there was at times a profusion of imagery, that, while it dazzled, sometimes confused the mind, and might be liable to the criticism of a colder, and, perhaps, more correct taste, few would care to put restraint upon a son of Kentucky, defending the honor and paying tribute to the virtues of his beloved mother-land—a man pleading the cause of his suffering brothers and countrymen.

We confess ourselves unable to assent to some of the Colonel's history and philosophy, but that may have arisen from our inability to comprehend or follow him at times. Something of that kind, we suppose.

We have reason to believe that Col. Dawson's efforts here have been crowned with a most gratifying success, due mainly, no doubt, to the efforts of the ladies of the Soldiers' Aid Society, to whom the orator paid a most glowing tribute.

The object for which Colonel Dawson labors is a most noble one, and we trust that his appeals may everywhere meet with a prompt and liberal response.

We feel unable, and we conceive it to be unnecessary to go into, or even attempt any lengthened report. Those at other points who wish to hear what the Colonel has got to say, will go and hear him, and thus enjoy the pleasure of listening to his oratory, and be certain of contributing to a noble object.

It was announced that the conclusion that any persons who had not contributed, and were anxious to contribute, could do so by sending their contributions to the President of the Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society, Mrs. A. J. DeRosier.

MESSRS. EDITORS. The Hon. James G. Shepley, at the request of a number of the most influential citizens of the State, delivered a lecture in Wilmington on the 2nd inst. The subject was "The State of the Nation." It is not the purpose of your correspondent, in the limited space he allows to himself, to attempt anything like an analysis or synopsis of the truly able and patriotic speech. He took the broad ground that upon the part of the Southern States, in the very inception, this war was right. He demonstrated that the act of secession was a just and honorable one, and that the Administration's desire to suppress it, and to use force to maintain it, was a crime against the principles of justice and liberty. He exhorted all to stand by the side of the people who were being oppressed, and to resist the tyrannical measures of the Administration. He concluded by saying that the people of the South were justified in their course, and that they should continue to stand by their rights.

THE DISTANCE OF LAUGHTER. "It is recorded of Dr. Griffin," says a writer in the "Atlantic," "that, when president of the Andover Theological Seminary he convened the students at his room one evening, and told them he had observed that they were all growing thin and despondent from a neglect of the exercise of Christian laughter, and then insisted upon it that they should go through a company drill in it then and there. The doctor was an immense man, and most magnificent manners. 'Here,' said he to the first, 'you must practice your laughter' and bursting out into a sonorous laugh, he fairly obliged his pupil one by one, to join till the whole were almost convulsed. 'That will do for once,' said the doctor, 'now mind you keep in practice!'

There is disposition in the North to regard this campaign as a last effort; and there is no disposition whatever to endure the sacrifice which another campaign would require. And it may well be doubted whether, in such a case, pressure from without might not be applied to increase the despondency within; and whether the recognition of a nation which would, by such a victory, make clear to the most reluctant observation the complete and irrevocable establishment of its national independence.

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THE EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

The exchange of prisoners, according to appointment, took place in the harbor Wednesday forenoon, outside of Fort Sumter, and nearly abreast Battery Wagner. About seven o'clock the Yankee prisoners to be exchanged, including Brigadier Generals Wessels, Seymour, Shaler, Hickman and Stannum, were marched from their quarters in Broad street to Chisolm's Mill wharf, in charge of Captain Gayer, Provost Marshal, under escort of Captain Mobley's Company, acting as guard.

Major Stringfellow, Captains Warwick and Fraser, of General Jones' Staff, and a number of other officers and civilians, were present, and went with the boat for the purpose of receiving our officers. The courtesy of Colonel Lay, officer in command, and Captain Gayer, the representatives of the Press also enjoyed the opportunity of being present and witnessing the exchange.

The Yankee prisoners, about eight o'clock, embarked on board the steamer Chesfield, on which the white flag was hoisted, and proceeded down the harbor; the prisoners being restricted to the upper saloon of the steamer until past Fort Sumter. In going down the river, the torpedoes and obstructions were admirably avoided by the skillful hand of Captain Ferguson, who took the wheel under his own